



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO COLUMBIA MEN SENTENCED ON COCAINE CHARGES

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two Columbia, Mo., men were sentenced in federal court today on federal narcotics and money laundering charges.

Jalon James Pittman, 24, of Columbia, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to 19 years and seven months in federal prison without parole.

Michael Lee McTye, 32, also of Columbia, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to three years in federal prison without parole.

On Dec. 6, 2004, **Pittman** pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute cocaine and possession with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine on Sept. 16, 2003, in the Columbia area. **Pittman** also admitted that he participated with others in a conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine and crack cocaine from October 2000 to September 2003 in the Columbia area, and that he participated in a conspiracy to commit money laundering between September and November 2003.

On Dec. 7, 2004, **McTye** pleaded guilty to possessing with intent to distribute cocaine. By pleading guilty, **McTye** also admitted to participating in the conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute cocaine and crack cocaine.

The co-defendants were originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on April 9, 2004, in Jefferson City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony P. Gonzalez. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Columbia, Mo., Police Department, the Boone County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow